Department of State TELEGRAM

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DRAFTED BY EA/ROC:MDZINOMAN:SJP
APPROVED BY EA:RWSULLIVAN
PM:ALOCKE (SUBS)
ACDA:RWILLIAMS
INR:JHAYES/GALUCHI
ACDA:CVANDOREN (SUBS)
OES/NET:LNOZENSO
DOE:RCHAPMAN (SUBS)
T/D:TWELSH (DRAFT)
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MNUC, ESTC, TW

SUBJECT: DENIAL OF EXPORT LICENSE ON HOT ISOSTATIC PRESS

REF: TAIPEI 7187

1. CONCERNED USG AGENCIES HAVE RECOMMENDED THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE DENY AN APPLICATION FOR THE EXPORT OF A "HOT ISOSTATIC PRESS" TO ROC. IF QUERIED BY THE PRESS ON SUBJECT YOU MAY USE FOLLOWING Q'S AND A'S.

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---Q: IS IT TRUE THAT US HAS TURNED DOWN A LICENSE FOR

EXPORT OF A "HOT ISOSTATIC PRESS" TO THE ROC AND IF SO, WHY?

---A: US EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCIES HAVE RECOMMENDED THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE DENY AN APPLICATION FOR THE EXPORT OF A "HOT ISOSTATIC PRESS" TO THE ROC ON GROUNDS THAT IT COULD BE USED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF OFFENSIVE MILITARY CAPABILITIES; SUCH AS OFFENSIVE MISSILES. IN GENERAL, THE POLICY OF THE US IS TO RESTRICT SUCH EXPORTS TO COUNTRIES IN SENSITIVE AREAS.

Q: CAN THE HOT ISOSTATIC PRESS ALSO BE USED FOR PRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

---A: SUCH PRESSES, IF MISUSED COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

2. AP STORY MENTIONED IN PARA 1 REFTEL APPEARS TO BE BASED ON A MISUNDERSTANDING OF DOE REPRESENTATIVE'S DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION FOR DENIAL OF EXPORT LICENSE. IF QUESTIONED ON EXISTENCE OF ROC NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM, POST CAN RESPOND AS FOLLOWS:

---Q: DOES THE ROC HAVE A NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM?

---A: WE KNOW OF NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM ON TAIWAN AND THE ROC HAS ASSURED US THAT ITS NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM IS DESIGNED EXCLUSIVELY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES.

---Q: IF IN THE FUTURE THE ROC WERE TO UNDERTAKE A NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM WOULD THIS VIOLATE ANY INTERNATIONAL OR BILATERAL AGREEMENTS?

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---A: YES, THE ROC IS A PARTY TO THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT) AND AS SUCH IS PROHIBITED FROM MANUFACTURING OR OTHERWISE ACQUIRING ANY NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVISE. IN KEEPING WITH THE ROC'S OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE NPT, THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA) CONDUCTS INSPECTIONS IN THE ROC AS IN OTHER COUNTRIES TO ASSURE THAT NUCLEAR MATERIALS ARE NOT MISUSED.
VANCE